(B) Name of Industries reporting minimum productivity growth.

Sl.No.	Name of the Company	Growth rate %
1.	Modi Rubber Ltd.	-59.36
2.	Vazir Glass Works Ltd.	-60.19
3.	Dazzel Confindive Ltd.	-63.54
4.	Amal Ltd.	-64.22
5.	Kirloskar Systems Ltd.	-66.71

Note: Growth rates estimated as compound annual growth between 2002 and 2008.
Source: NPC estimation based on the CMIE Prowess Data base of 2000 companies.

Decrease in employment opportunities in foreign trade

†868. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that exports from the country have increased to 17.1 per cent in respect of dollars and 28.7 per cent in respect of rupees;

(b) if not, the details thereof; and

(c) the reasons as to why there is an indication of decreasing of the opportunities of employment in this foreign trade during this period despite the growth of export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes Sir, during the period April — December, 2008.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer to (a) above.

(c) The decrease in employment is mainly due to fall in exports in the labour intensive sectors during the 3rd quarter of the current financial year and in January, 2009.

Alternative employment to tea plantation workers

869. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tea plantation workers are dying a slow death, as the Centre's package has helped only the owners of these estates;

(b) whether it is proposed to cover tea workers under National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA) to provide them employment atleast of 100 days during the year; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what is the action plan of the Government to help out this beleaguered lot?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. Government of India had announced a rehabilitation package for closed tea gardens to enable the owners of closed tea gardens to revive the gardens in the interest of tea garden workers. This rehabilitation package was notified in June, 2007 but so far, only one tea garden has availed the package.

(b) and (c) Plantation is a permissible activity under NREGA. Tea workers are eligible under NREGA to apply through NREGA processes for NREGA works. However, the pruning of tea bushes is not permissible under NREGA as it is part of the commercial operations of tea plantations carried out in land leased to companies and so the activity pertains to assets that are private in nature. Government is constantly interacting with Tea Garden Owners and Bankers to revive these closed tea gardens in the overall interest of the tea garden workers and the importance of this industry in the export performance of the country.

Import of plastic scrap

870. SHRIMATI RENUBALA PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to allow import of plastic scrap to help the industry in the global market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action plan of Government to ensure that this does not become a dumping ground for plastic waste which might contain toxic wastes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) Import of plastic waste, scrap and parings, except PET bottle scrap, is restricted for imports. There is no proposal under consideration of the Government to remove the import restrictions on these items.

Widening of FDI net

871. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) net likely to be widened in direct foreign ownership of firms, may be excluded from the definition of FDI;

(b) whether FDI was considered by Empowered Group of Ministers (EGOMs) on February, 2009 meeting;